

PATENT

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-13 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 14-20 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a).

Claim 14 recites a semiconductor substrate comprising an IO ring with a bond pad portion. The bond pad portion includes a first bond pad, a second set of bond pads, and a third bond pad. The Office states that Ibnabdeljalil discloses a conductive trace 64 that couples a first bond pad 65 to a third bond pad 66 in the manner recited in Claim 14. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 14 recites a semiconductor substrate comprising a first bond pad, second set of bond pads, third bond pad, and a conductive trace coupling the first bond pad to the third bond pad. Conductive trace 64 of Ibnabdeljalil is not part of a semiconductor substrate, instead, trace 64 of Ibnabdeljalil is part of a package. Therefore the trace 64 cannot couple a first bond pad to a third bond pad as recited. Furthermore, even if trace 64 were associated with semiconductor substrate as recited, there is no second set of bond pads immediately adjacent to the first and second bond pad as recited; therefore Ibnabdeljalil provides no suggestion of the recited claims. The cited references do not disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, the recited combination of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is non-obvious. For this reason it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 14 under § 103 be withdrawn, and allowance of Claim 14, and its dependent claims, is earnestly solicited.

In conclusion, Applicant(s) has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

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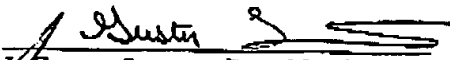
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